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MEDICAL TREATMENT OF INSANITY.

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THE remarks on this subject, in a recent communication to the Medical and Surgical Journal, are highly interesting and valuable. Were they less so, the elevated source from which, it is evident, they spring, must ever command respect and attention. It might even be deemed a matter of presumption for one, whose opportunities of observing insanity have been comparatively limited, to venture to oppose, however slightly, the views which they express. The object of the following paragraphs is, therefore, not to contend against what has been advanced, but to advert to one or two points, on which, from not being sufficiently explicit, the communication alluded to may be indirectly productive of injurious consequences.

The question when, and to what extent, bloodletting is admissible, and that relating to the propriety of administering narcotics, are the topics to which we refer. The author of the communication would not proscribe bleeding altogether; and yet by quoting writers opposed to this remedy, and bringing forward such cases from his own observation, as, at first view, might seem to call for it, but in which, however, it proved injurious, he has argued against it in toto. Observations, correct in themselves, and inferences just, so far as they apply to the indiscriminate employment and repetition of bloodletting, are brought together, and the effect of the whole is to discourage bleeding under any circumstances whatever.

The authority of Prichard is apparently made to contribute to the same effect; while nothing could have been further from the intention of that writer, as will appear to any one who examines his work. If there is any medical author in the English language, since the time of Rush, who may be considered an advocate for bleeding in mania, it is Prichard. Such is the whole scope and tenor of his reasoning. Such is the direct inference from the pathological facts and observations, which he has adduced to show the danger of neglecting it. And though the correspondent of the Journal afterwards admits this *in part*; yet as he has quoted without qualification, or alluding to what follows, the passage in which he allows to a certain extent the force of the arguments of his opponents, preliminary to discussing the question, he has inadvertently rendered him liable to misconception. He has given us the *if*, without the *but*—the *proviso*, without the *conclusion*. A better idea of the opinions of Prichard, on this subject, would have been conveyed, had

he been permitted to say as follows.—If on the one hand it be granted that dementia, prostration, and, in rare instances, death, follow the injudicious employment and repetition of the lancet; on the other, the investigations of Foville prove conclusively that permanent alterations of the structure of the brain, and consequent derangement of its functions, are the too frequent consequences of its neglect. And it is better, far better, that numbers should fall into temporary dementia, or debility, than that a single patient should pass from acute into chronic mania, or monomania, either of which conditions is comparatively hopeless.

The remark of Pinel and others, adopted in that communication, that violence is often increased after bleeding, is, I think, entitled to little weight. For it by no means follows that increased violence is increased disease. We may suppose a highly congested state of the brain, approaching to inflammation, or apoplexy, in which bloodletting, by relieving the over-distended vessels, would give rise to increased functional activity, and the consequence would be an increase of the prominent symptoms: but surely the danger is less than if it had been omitted. Mania often arises after bleeding in apoplexy. But is it not a more favorable condition than apoplexy itself? Melancholy, says Esquirol, as quoted by the author, has been known to pass into violent madness after bleeding. In reply to which, give me leave to ask, does not excitement follow melancholy more or less, according to the degree of previous torpor, when it terminates in recovery? And was not this accession of violence but a step in the progress towards recovery?

This objection to bleeding that it is often followed by an increase of the symptoms, might be met with a similar objection brought by Burrows against producing sleep, that it is often followed by the same effects. In all cases of increased violence in which neither of the above conditions will apply, the cause is the same, whether following sleep or bleeding. It is the consequence, not of the bleeding, nor of the sleep, but of the rest or suspension of nervous activity after the one and during the other. And every argument urged from this fact against the employment of the lancet, might be brought to bear with equal, or greater force, against the use of narcotics to produce sleep.

The number of cases injured by bleeding will be found to be less, it is apprehended, than would be inferred from the general tenor of W.'s remarks. Out of more than a hundred, with the history of whose cases I have been acquainted, I recollect but two who were supposed to be injured by bleeding, and one of these after his recovery, which took place in four months, constantly asserted that bleeding was what saved his life; and as his memory was correct, it is highly probable that he was the best judge of the effects. The other was a case of dementia, concerning which, any opinion at this time would be premature.

The only case in which I ever personally witnessed bleeding in mania, was attended with the happiest results. The patient passed immediately from the highest pitch of excitement into a calm, followed by a tranquil sleep. And when the symptoms afterwards returned with renewed violence, they were unattended with the pain, heat of the head, flushed countenance and injection of the conjunctiva, which were constantly

present before the operation. At this day, after an interval of 10 years, he still refers to that operation not only as the means of relief, but of the preservation of life, and describes the effects produced on his sensations with as much accuracy, as he does the circumstances attending it. Now had the physicians, who treated those cases, been impressed with a horror of bleeding, what would have been the result?

Having thus contended against the employment of bloodletting in the abstract, your correspondent recommends the use of opium and narcotics in general terms. He acknowledges, however, that in some cases opium may be injurious, while in others some preparation of the system is necessary previous to its exhibition. Unfortunately, the country practitioner (for whose instruction the article was expressly written) is left without any clue to either of these cases, or to the mode of preparation necessary. And of course the only thing for him to do when called to a patient afflicted with this melancholy disease, is to look on, with stoical indifference, or to sign a certificate sending him to an insane hospital.

It is with a hope of contributing, in some slight degree, to relieve him from this embarrassment, that these observations are offered.

The narcotic method of treating mania was introduced into the New England hospitals by the agency of Dr. Todd, of Hartford, and has undoubtedly been attended with brilliant results. But it may be questioned whether it possesses so many advantages over the antiphlogistic method of Rush and Cullen, as to justify its exclusive adoption. If prostration, increase of the symptoms, and sudden death, sometimes follow the former, are they not liable to occur also in the latter? Armstrong, Burrows, and other distinguished writers, warn us of the danger of accumulation of effect in the administration of these remedies, in mania as well as in other diseases. Again, in order to estimate its true value, we should be put in possession of the number of relapses that take place under each mode—a species of information which it should be incumbent on the directors of hospitals to procure and furnish, in their annual reports, as far as possible.

An opportunity of observing this disease, and this mode of treatment, on rather an extensive scale, while it has given me a high opinion of its general merits, has, nevertheless, strongly impressed me with a belief, that the greater number of relapses that take place under it, forms a material drawback to its value. Without, however, in this place, entering into all the considerations on which such an opinion might be founded, as the known transient effects of narcotics on the system in general, the constant relation observed between the amount of the dose and the degree of excitement of the nervous system manifested by the patient, the elasticity, as it were, with which it returned to its former state when the dose was suspended, or remained stationary for any length of time—a brief statement of a case that came under my observation will contribute somewhat to set the subject in its true light.

A gentleman, subject to repeated attacks of insanity, who had been more than once an inmate of a hospital where the antiphlogistic theory was in vogue, was admitted into the same institution when it had given place to the narcotic method exclusively. He complained of premoni-

tory symptoms, such as usually preceded his former attacks, and manifested considerable nervous excitement, though not sufficient to render it a well-marked case of insanity. These symptoms were soon dissipated under the influence of opiates; and after remaining 3 or 4 months at the hospital, to all appearance well, he was discharged. In about a fortnight afterwards he was re-admitted in a highly excited condition, and subjected to a similar, but more energetic course of treatment. In less than a month all diseased manifestations disappeared, and after being subject to a second probation of three months, he was again discharged, and returned to his friends. A third time, within a year, he has been admitted, more violent than before, and recovered. His periods of excitement under antiphlogistic remedies usually lasted from 3 to 4 months, but the intervals continued for years.

This case should not be regarded as conclusive. It however goes far to show that, under similar circumstances, the liability to a recurrence of disease is greater, though the attacks may be shorter, under the new, than under the old system. To some it may appear confirmatory of the doctrine of the self-limitation of disease. In either point of view, it must be regarded as instructive and interesting.

The writer approves of the frequent use of opium in the New England institutions, as a substitute for bloodletting and antiphlogistics in general. Digitalis is mentioned in terms of disparagement. I have seen many cases in which opium seemed to operate as a specific in allaying excitement. In others it was obliged to be discontinued in consequence of aggravating the unpleasant symptoms. There is a striking analogy, if not identity, between its action, when it operates as a sedative, and that of digitalis, according to the accounts of the authors who recommend this latter remedy. Both are directed to be given in small doses, and gradually, but indefinitely increased; in both the primary effect is stimulant, the ultimate sedative; in both the effects seem to accumulate. The same train of bodily symptoms attends the operation of each; torpitude of the senses, mental inactivity, depression of spirits, muscular debility, slowness of the pulse, coldness of the surface, nausea, vomiting, and, if carried too far, extreme prostration. When the patient is well under the influence of opium, the pulse ranges from 40 to 60, and in one person I have known it as low as 34, a minute.

No one will deny that when the irritability of an organ, or a part of the body, is increased, there is a tendency to an accumulation of blood in that part, proportionate to the degree of this irritability. This tendency is a vital law, established by nature for the safety of organized structures. Now, when this accumulation takes place within certain limits, we observe, as its effect, in the first place, an increase of the function of the part; and in the second place, a return of the part to its former grade of irritability, or it may fall below this. But, from some inappreciable circumstance, there is a second tendency connected with the first, which is, a disposition to excess, or to fill the vessels beyond the point at which they are enabled to carry on the circulation. A change in the structure, or the death of the part, must then take place, unless the vessels are relieved artificially. It seems necessary, that when irritability is increased, vascular fulness

should also be increased in order to supply it with the pabulum, by which to exhaust itself. This is true, be the cause a moral one applied to the brain, or a physical one applied to that, or any other part. The indications, then, in the treatment of insanity, are drawn from the above two sources, viz., the irritability of the brain, and its vascular fulness. Our object is, to maintain a certain relation between them; we are to endeavor to diminish either or both, if in excess, and to increase either or both, if deficient. The means by which we judge of this excess, or deficiency, are the activity of the functions of animal life, and the physical signs connected with vascular determination. When called to a case of mania, then, there are two things to be taken into view, before deciding on the course to be adopted. The first is the degree of vascular action; the second, the nervous excitability. By attending to the former, we avert organic disease; by attending to the latter, we correct functional disorder. It is true, inordinate action of the one cannot exist long without inordinate action of the other. And it is no less true, that all causes, moral and physical, act primarily on the nerves of organic life. Yet they must be considered apart, in order to estimate the bearing of each. By the administration of narcotics we lessen the susceptibility to the impression of stimulants, and among others to that of the blood. We take nothing from the system, nor from any part of it. There may be the same amount of blood at any moment in the same organ. But the sensibility to its stimulus being impaired for the time being, there is not the same amount of healthy secretion, nor of circulation, nor calorification. The reason is, they are effects of a common, compound cause, one of the elements of which is defective. This is true of the brain. Diminish the sensibility of that organ, and you diminish its vital actions, its circulation, its mental and moral manifestations, &c., though at the same time you may not diminish, you may even increase, the amount of blood within it at a given moment. From this view of the subject, the indications of treatment would be very simple, were it not for a material modifying circumstance. Experience proves that there is a primary stimulant effect of narcotics, which, in certain states of the circulation of the brain, renders their exhibition impossible, unless it is counteracted by other means.

On the other hand, if blood is abstracted, the excitability is not altered, but the stimulus which acts upon it is to a greater or less extent withdrawn. Excitement is reduced, but not excitability itself; for this last is but the effect produced by the mutual action of excitability and arterial blood. It may be increased, on the contrary. For its tendency is to increase by rest, and to be diminished by action. Hence fatigue after exercise; sleep itself, and renewed vigor after sleep. Hence the alternations between mania and melancholy. Hence, also, the tendency of certain diseases to run a defined course. And as the galvanic trough acts with more energy after its plates have been removed from the fluid, than when they have been immersed some time, so the brain, when its appropriate stimulus is withdrawn for a season, whether by diminution of quantity directly, or indirectly by diminution of velocity of the circulatory fluid (sleep), its inherent irritability continuing, it

manifests its former activity, or even passes beyond it, as soon as the circulation is restored, to be again dissipated by its own action—its activity proving a legitimate sedative; a mode of operation by which nature supplies the place of narcotics, where she has them not at command.

The degree of muscular exertion is no more a measure of vital power, than the degree of mental excitement—no more in madness, than in tetanus. They are both the result of increased action of the nervous system, and may exist equally in a strong or weak person. To produce them requires an expenditure of vital power, and the longer, and more violent they have been, the greater the danger of prostration.

If these observations are correct, the question arises, when should we abstract blood? and what should be our motive? The answer is plain; we should abstract it when there is vascular fulness of the brain, and the object should be to prevent organic alteration. Not the diminution of nervous activity. So long as a due relation is maintained between the circulating fluid and the irritability of the nerves, so long the brain is in the best possible condition for the restoration of its functions, no matter how great its activity. It resembles a glandular organ endeavoring to relieve itself of incipient inflammation, by an increase of its natural secretion—morbid, but still natural. And it would be better for a country practitioner to keep this object in view, and be governed by nothing else, than to undertake to cure insanity by bloodletting, or by opium, or digitalis, indiscriminately. The circumstances which modify this disease are so numerous, so discordant are the views of writers on this subject, and it is so seldom met with in private practice, that the practitioner is often at a loss what course to pursue when called to treat it. In this event, if he commits an error, he had better err on the safe side. By bleeding once, or twice, in the early stage, in vigorous subjects, he will scarcely do harm; while by omitting it he may do irreparable injury. But should he attempt to put an end to the disease by exhibiting narcotics in large doses, without previous preparation by bleeding, he will often find all the symptoms aggravated. Should he commence with small doses, and gradually increase them, alarming prostration may occur when he least expects it, apparently from the accumulation of their effects. The practice of Armstrong in inflammations generally, which consists in bleeding to relieve the distention of the vessels, and after that in exhibiting liberal doses of opium to allay the irritability of the nerves, will be found as applicable to acute mania as to gastritis. Were this method adopted vigorously in the early stages, there is, I think, every reason to suppose that the disease might often be cut short, and the necessity of sending the patient to an insane asylum obviated. What is valuable in both modes of treatment might thus be happily combined, and conflicting theories reconciled to each other. We should not be likely to hear it said so often, that bleeding is followed by increase of the symptoms, for reaction in excess would be prevented.

Having extended these observations further than was at first intended, I shall omit the consideration of those cases where bloodletting is inadmissible at the onset. They are generally those which follow hæmorrhages, excessive evacuations, and long-continued debilitating causes,

Such patients recover rapidly under the use of tonics, opiates, and a nourishing food, when the cause itself is removed. On this head, the communication in question leaves little to be said. If in other respects I have animadverted on it freely, it is because it comes from a source which is justly regarded as high authority, and any erroneous impression it conveys will be extensively felt, and serious in its consequences. Though its views, separately considered, may be correct, and its cautions just, still by dwelling, as it appears to me, on exceptions to general rules, without pointing out minutely the circumstances which render them exceptions, the effect of the whole may be to produce doubt and indecision, where confidence and firmness should prevail, in the treatment of a disease, than which no one enlists our sympathies more strongly, or calls more loudly on the resources of medical science.

I have not ventured to differ in *opinion* from the highly respected author of that communication, so much as to draw attention to one or two points where, from want of definiteness, perhaps, he has not sufficiently explained himself. Thus, he has argued in general against bloodletting, while he admits that sometimes it may be beneficial. Again, he condemns opium in some cases, without, in either instance, specifying the circumstances that render the employment of the one, or the omission of the other, necessary. A more full development of his views, with the principles which regulate the employment of narcotics, from his pen, would be of value to the profession and to the community. His established reputation, the station he occupies, the success with which he has treated this disease, give us a right to expect something more than a mere annunciation of a departure from the mode of Rush and Cullen.

H.

Boston, July 15, 1837.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE CLIMATE, &c. OF SANTA CRUZ.

(Concluded from page 379.)

On my arrival at West End, in Santa Cruz, I soon heard of an intermittent fever, which at that time prevailed over a large part of the island. It was not unlike the fever and ague of our Western country. But it was a fatal disease in very few cases. It was, however, often a long, and very troublesome one; and it was daily a topic of somewhat anxious inquiry, what new cases of it had occurred? Visitants of the island, and especially invalids among them, could not but feel some apprehension of an attack of it. But few Americans, however, suffered from it; and the exposure of those to it was small, who were properly cautious in regard to dress, who were careful not to stand or sit in a draft, not to seek too quickly to cool themselves when suffering from excessive warmth, and not to expose themselves abroad to the air of evening. The slaves suffered much from it; and principally, because, after having labored through the day under a hot sun, against all admonition they would be out late for walking, or dancing; and, while greatly heated, return home through the damps of evening. I should say, how-

ever, that I was repeatedly assured, that the intermittent of the last year was far more prevalent, than had been any one during seven preceding years. Having passed eight weeks at West End, I removed to Bassin on the first of February. There I found that vegetation was, and had been, far less luxuriant than at West End; that but little rain had fallen for a considerable time, and that there had been no prevailing disease. I was repeatedly assured that not a case of intermittent fever had been known there, which had not been brought from West End. Little or no change of temperature was indicated by the thermometer. Yet I thought the air more elastic, and grateful, than at West End. This change of residence was also a very agreeable one, in the circumstances, that the eyes are not tried and pained by the gravelled streets and roads in and about Bassin; and, that the shade to be found in the numerous arcades there, and in the narrower, yet equally commodious streets, makes those streets far more favorable for a walk. Should I again go to Santa Cruz, I should prefer Bassin as my place of residence, unless there should be a well-situated and well-kept boarding house in the country. A good deal would be relinquished in giving up the rides and drives around West End. But more, I think, would be gained in respect to light, and air, at Bassin.

There are not a few invalids, to whom the question of the religious state of Santa Cruz will be one of great interest. And in reply to this question, I would say, that the established religion, which is that of Denmark, is Lutheran. Other forms of religion are, however, tolerated, except of the Methodists. Ministers of that class would not be allowed to officiate there. There is an Episcopal church at Bassin, and another at West End, in each of which an Episcopal minister officiates alternately every other Sunday; and in these churches, in the absence of the minister, prayers and a sermon are read by one of the wardens. There are a few Catholics in the island, and there is a small Catholic church at Bassin. But the most efficient, beyond comparison, of the clergy, are the Moravian ministers. Nor is there any one of all the classes of ministers in Christendom, which has so faithfully carried out the spirit of the Apostles. The Moravians began their missionary exertions in St. Thomas, forty miles from Santa Cruz, in 1732; nor, I believe, have their labors in these islands been since intermitted. They have three establishments in Santa Cruz; one in Bassin, one at West End, and another in the centre of the island; and they have six thousand slaves in their spiritual charge there. They preach only to the slaves, and in the mixed and negro-language which is peculiar to the slaves. They have shops for all smith's work, both in iron and copper; and their own labor furnishes about half the means of supporting their institutions. All the churches, like the houses of the inhabitants, are constructed with a reference to the freest course of air through them; and invalids are therefore greatly exposed to colds by going to church. And, although not from this cause, small is church-going there, when compared with the population. The task of a minister there, who would be faithful, must be a very painful one. The Moravians feel the greatest freedom in religious action, and exert incomparably the greatest influence. This in-

fluence is felt by all to be of the most salutary kind, and no obstacle is interposed to check it. A slave would much prefer to receive a whipping, than to have a complaint entered against him to the Boss,—by which term the Moravian minister is distinguished among the slaves. A sort of court is held every Tuesday evening by the Moravian ministers, and their wives; and slaves, who would have advice as to their conduct, or who have complaints to make of each other, on that evening go to the Moravian establishments. The females of these establishments have then the charge of the female slaves, and the ministers of the male slaves; and on these occasions, conflicting passions are reconciled and harmonized, and enemies are made friends. The fear felt of the Boss is no other than the fear of a temporary excision from the church. But this is a greatly dreaded evil. The Governor General of Santa Cruz told me there was a Moravian minister at St. Thomas, who was more effective for the security of that island, than would be two hundred soldiers.

It is said that slavery is no where to be seen in a more modified, or less repulsive form, than in Santa Cruz. And it is to be acknowledged, that much is due to the Governor General for what he has done, both to lighten the yoke which he has not been able to break, and for the security of right and justice to the free men of color in the island. Slavery, there, is of a mitigated form; and the free black, or colored person, has there all the civil privileges of a Danish subject. A very large proportion of the mechanics of the towns are colored men. In the militia there are two colored corps; and one of the aids of the Governor is a colored man. I have also repeatedly seen colored men at the levees held at Government house; and the Governor would, if he could, bring about a free intercourse, and an exchange of visits, between the white and free colored population. But great as is his power, and he is a representative of the absolute majesty of Denmark, he has been unable to effect this. Yet a slave, equally as his owner, may carry his complaint immediately to the ear of the Governor; and I was assured, that as prompt and impartial justice would be rendered to the bond, as to the freeman. The meaning of this, without doubt, is, that the slave will receive as impartial justice, as can be rendered to him while yet he shall continue in slavery. In the sale of a slave, or of slaves, the law forbids an owner to separate a husband and wife; or to separate a child under eleven years of age from his or her parents, provided the parents are husband and wife. But I was told, also, that but few of the slaves are legally married; and that little or no interest is felt by their owners on the question, whether they come together by mutual consent, or are connected by a marriage service. I am glad likewise to be able to state, in this connection, that a slave who is resolved that he will be free, may go to his owner and demand an appraisement of himself. If he shall be satisfied with this appraisement, and shall be able to earn, or otherwise to procure, the sum at which he has thus been appraised, his owner is obliged, on the receipt of this sum, to emancipate him. Or, should he be dissatisfied with the appraisement made by his owner, he may demand an appraisement of himself by a board of reference, to be chosen for the

purpose of appraising him, it being understood that his owner shall make one of this board. The power of appointing referees for this object is vested in one of the judges, and the owner must abide by their decision. And slaves actually thus obtain their freedom. To every slave family is allowed a small patch of ground on the estate to which they belong; and on this vegetables, and poultry, and a pig or two, may be raised, either for home consumption, or for the market. All the horses and ponies in the towns are fed principally upon Guinea grass; and by far the greatest quantity of this grass is supplied by slaves who carry it to town in bundles upon their heads, and who receive for themselves the sums for which it is sold. On some estates, every Saturday, and on some others, every other Saturday, is allowed them, for labor for themselves. By these means very considerable accumulations of money are made by the slaves, all suspicion of which, however, they are very careful to avoid. A gentleman there, who had several times advanced the sums at which slaves had been appraised, upon their agreement that they would work for him, for a specified time as servants, or as hired persons, told me that a woman came to him, and begged that he would purchase her, and allow her to work for him till she should have repaid him. The sum required by her owner was, I think, \$150. She had brought with her \$40 of this sum, and her object was that he should advance the balance. He told her that he could not at that time conveniently spare the amount she wanted. She went away, and in an hour or two returned with 109 Spanish dollars, which she had borrowed of a female slave, for which he was to become security; and thus obtained her freedom. Able bodied slaves, from twenty to forty years of age, are sold there at all prices between a hundred and fifty and three hundred dollars. The average price of good field workers is about \$200; and of capable mechanics, from 3 to \$500. In two, or at most, in three years, an industrious and enterprising slave may earn enough to purchase his freedom. It is, however, not uncommon that parents purchase the freedom of their children, rather than their own. A gentleman told me that he had a slave, who was a carpenter, and who had a wife and eight or ten children. This man was allowed to earn what he could for himself by working abroad every Saturday; and with the sums thus earned, together with those obtained from the sale of the produce of his patch of ground, he purchased successively the freedom of his wife, and of each of his children, while yet he continued himself a slave. Was he not a noble being?

I would not, however, enlarge upon this topic, in a work professedly scientific; and will therefore only add, that both the slave population, and the productiveness of the soil, are considerably less than they were thirty or thirty-five years ago. The land is exhausted in much of the island from having been overwrought; and the slaves have decreased in number, from the circumstances, 1st, that, at the time when the further importation of them was interdicted, the number of females was considerably less than of the males; 2dly, from the number that have purchased, or have otherwise received, their freedom; and 3dly, from the mortality among them, which has attended the prevalent intermittents of the isl-

and, of which disease the slaves are principally the victims. Slave property is also constantly deteriorating there, from the prevalence of the conviction, that the certain, and not far distant result of the English emancipation law will, and must be, the emancipation of all the slaves in the West Indies. The population in the year 1800 was,

Of white males,	1293	}	2223
Of white females,	930		
Of colored males and females,	1164		1164*
Of male blacks,	11670	}	21706
Of female blacks,	10036		
Total,			25093

Formerly, both coffee and cotton were cultivated there. The only exports of the island now are, sugar, rum, and molasses. Upon a good estate, and with a good crop, the profits from the rum and molasses will support the slaves. The sugar, in this case, gives the net income of the proprietor.

I have spoken of the mortality among the slaves during the prevalence of intermittent fever. It is to be observed, also, that elephantiasis is common among them. In our daily walks and drives we met those, both in towns and in the country, one or both of whose feet were enlarged to an elephantine size. And the spectacle is a very painful one. I observed several cases, in which one or more of the toes had disappeared; and the skin of the foot had the coarse and rough appearance of an elephant's hide. I saw one instance in which the disease had extended from both feet, to the upper part of the thighs; and both of the lower limbs, in this case, were nearly three times larger than the natural size. Under this disease, the poor creatures who are the subjects of it can walk, but are wholly disqualified for labor. Men of this class, therefore, and those who are broken down by age, are employed as watchmen of the cane fields. These fields are not enclosed by fences, and must therefore be guarded. This disease is, I believe, a species of leprosy; but, unlike the ancient leprosy of Judea, it is not contagious. The blacks also, I was told, are peculiarly liable to lockjaw; and it is remarkable, that a very large number of their children die of this disease, within the first nine days after their birth. A gentleman there said, that a fourth part of the black children born upon his estate, had died at this early age from lockjaw; and that little security was felt there of the life of a black infant, till the ninth day from its birth had passed. This, however, was a very remarkable proportion of deaths from this cause.

The slaves, I may likewise observe, have two holidays in the year; one at Christmas, and the other on new year's day. At Christmas, every slave receives six pounds of white flour, six pounds of pork,

* The colored population consists of those who are neither black nor white. They are, 1st, Mulattoes, one of whose parents is black, and the other white; 2d, Mustas, one of whose parents is white, and the other a mulatto; 3d, Costees, one of whose parents is white, and the other a Mustee; and, 4th, Samboes, one of whose parents is black, and the other a Mulatto. The number of these is a fact which requires no comment.

about four pounds of sugar, and a bottle of rum. Their usual allowance is six quarts of kiln-dried corn meal, and ten or twelve herrings a week. Some owners, however, allow each of them a ship biscuit every morning at going out to work, during the time of holing, or of digging the trenches in which canes are planted. The above named holidays are welcomed in by the beating of drums. Great preparations of dress are made for these occasions; and no inconsiderable part of their earnings must be expended, in the decorations with which they provide themselves. A complete Saturnalia is then to be seen there. The houses of the proprietors of slaves are thrown open; and long processions of slaves, decked in silks, and in snow white muslins, and with banners and music, enter at will the habitations to which they determine to go, obtain undisputed possession, are served with cakes and wine by their owners, or by others upon whom they may call, and dance till they shall be disposed to depart. A day or two before one of these holidays, a gentleman told me that he was obtaining small Danish coin, in exchange for two doubloons, for distribution among the slaves who would be at his house; and on a visit which I made that day to his house, I found him alternately serving his guests with cakes and wine; and, although he was seventy-three years of age, joining with them in their dances. The queen of one of the bands at that house was the slave of a mulatto woman. The noise of the music, which was of drums and kettle drums, made it quite impossible that the voice should be heard. But their liberty expired with the day. They slept, and were again slaves.

Sunday is the great market day in Santa Cruz. On that day vegetables and fruits are brought to the towns by slaves from the country; and I was repeatedly told, that "nearly all," or that "nine tenths of these were stolen." The meat markets are in shops, and are well supplied with beef, mutton and pork. Poultry, like vegetables, is generally brought for sale from the country. But there are also good fish markets in the towns. The price of butchers' meats was sixteen cents a pound; and for the poorest pieces, the same price is required as for the best. The butchers, however, are not allowed to sell any of their meats till the garrisons shall have been supplied from their stalls. The richest subject must wait in the purchase of his meats, till the soldier shall have been served.

The boarding-houses of the last winter were, at West End, No. 10 Strand street, which is the most pleasantly situated, and best constructed boarding-house in that town; Mrs. Boyles's, Mrs. Codwin's, Mrs. Rogers's, Mrs. Aiken's, and Mrs. Briggs's. About a mile north from West End, is a beautiful place called Prosperity, where a boarding-house was kept by Mrs. Van Brackle; and a good house, in a very healthy situation, was kept by Mrs. Smith at Stoney Ground, about a mile and a quarter south from West End. At Bassin, I boarded with Mrs. Hanson, whose house I can recommend highly. Mrs. Hanson has been long enough in America to know the habits and tastes of our countrymen, and no attention will be neglected by her, which she can pay to her boarders. Mr. Springham also keeps a very good house in the outskirts

of the town. His estate is called Richmond. And I can confidently recommend the house kept by Mrs. Carden. The inmates of that house were, I believe, all entirely satisfied with it. The general price of board, without wine or spirits, is \$10 a week; and for young children, and servants, \$5 a week for each. Washing is a separate expense, and is done, according to the quantity of clothes used, at from \$1 to 1.50 a week for each person.

The Danish currency of Santa Cruz is as follows.

1st, Metallic, or

Stivers, each of which is worth one cent and a third of a cent.

Three stiver pieces, each equal to half a good bit, or four cents.

Five stiver pieces, each equal to six cents and two thirds of a cent.

Ten stiver pieces, each equal to thirteen cents and one third of a cent.

A good bit is a nominal coin, and is equal to six stivers, or eight cents. Fifteen old bits, or five stiver pieces, or twelve and a half good bits, are equal to one dollar. A piece of eight, also a merely nominal coin, is equal to sixty-four cents. A Patriot doubloon is equal to sixteen dollars.

2d, Paper, or Governmental Notes. These are for

5 pieces of eight, equal to \$3 20.

10 pieces of eight, equal to \$6 40.

50 pieces of eight, equal to \$32 00.

100 pieces of eight, equal to \$64 00.

The American eagle, half and quarter eagle, and the American and Spanish dollar, half and quarter of a dollar, are received there at their estimated value here. And these will be found a much more convenient form of money there than the Patriot doubloon, on which Americans have hitherto principally relied for their expenses in Santa Cruz.

In this connection I am reminded to say, that whoever shall visit that island with an intention of passing the winter there, should carry with him such medicines as may probably be required for the illness under which he is suffering, or for any illness which may reasonably be apprehended. For example, the medicinal agent principally relied upon in cases of intermittent fever, is quinine; and two dollars a dozen were required there last winter for quinine pills, of one grain each. For twenty pepperine pills, three dollars and twenty cents were paid; ten cents a drop for a solution of morphine; and thirteen dollars for thirteen leeches, five only of which were used. The cost of almost all medicines is exorbitantly great there. By incurring a small expense here, therefore, he may there save himself from a large one.

I ought to add, that no one is permitted to leave the island without a passport. An American passport may be obtained from the Secretary of State for the United States, without any cost for it; and with this, countersigned at Santa Cruz, a visiter may leave the island. An American passport is countersigned upon the payment of \$2. He who has not such a passport, must obtain a Danish one, for which he must pay \$9.60.

But although no one is permitted to leave the island without a pass-

port, it will yet be a circumstance of no small gratification to those who may go there, that letters and parcels which may be sent to them will at once, and without expense, be conveyed to them. There is no governmental post office in Santa Cruz. Letters, and parcels of newspapers, &c. are taken from the vessel which brings them, to the counting room of the merchant to whom the vessel is consigned; the letter bag is there opened, and a boy or man is at once sent out to distribute its contents among those to whom they are addressed. To this boy, or man, every receiver of a letter or parcel gives a five stiver piece. But this is a free-will offering. The merchants in the island are in this respect very kindly attentive to strangers. Even letters and parcels which may arrive in one of the towns, and be addressed to individuals in the other, are sent off at once, by express, to the town in which these individuals are residing, and are there immediately sent to them. These are circumstances which call for very grateful acknowledgment. They are among the most valuable of the hospitalities which could be extended to strangers.

I hope you will not think this letter an unreasonably long one. It would have been easy to have extended it. But, such as it is, you will receive it as a small offering of the gratitude and affection with which I am your friend,

JOSEPH TUCKERMAN.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 26, 1837.

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.

A PAMPHLET of some forty pages, entitled a "*A Narrative of the dissolution of the Medical Faculty of Transylvania University, by Lunsford P. Yandell,*" has been received. As there are always two sides to a story, it is presumed that this presents only one of them; the other has been adverted to by us, occasionally, whenever new circulars have been issued. In all this controversy, it is very evident that the two parties have been contending for power. The vanquished are making appeals to the people, who generally care not a straw about the matter when *doctors disagree*.

Dr. Yandell, in company with Dr. Caldwell, is one of the ex-professors. He manifests a good share of independence, and avows, most decidedly, that a school of medicine is contemplated at Louisville. In a spirit of triumph, for it savors of nothing more strongly, he says, in conclusion, alluding to the narrative, "if we have dealt harshly with the professors, let it be remembered that they have brought it upon themselves by the clamor which they have wantonly raised against our city in places where she may be seriously affected by unfounded prejudices. We now call upon the Legislature, in the name of our fellow citizens, to charter a medical institution in Louisville, forthwith. Let that be done, and then let the Transylvania School look to itself." A new school, we have no

doubt, will ultimately be organized at Louisville; but the other cannot very easily be destroyed. We have no hesitation in saying that there are already too many medical colleges in this country;—the old ones, well managed, are equal to the wants of all North America.

Dr. Bushe's Library.—A catalogue of the very rare and valuable library belonging to the late Dr. Geo. M. Bushe, of New York, which was to be sold at auction, a week or two since, with a rich collection of surgical instruments, was received here at a period too late to serve the interests of the widow, by circulating a notice of the sale, which we regret exceedingly.

There were six hundred and forty-two authors named, giving, probably, over a thousand volumes in the whole, a large proportion of them being illustrated with plates, and embracing all the works in the French, Italian, Latin, German, and English languages, that could be coveted by a practical surgeon. An opportunity like this, for procuring scarce productions of other countries, has not been presented here for a long time. It is hardly to be expected that the original cost could have been realized, as professional men only can form a correct estimate of the dearth of those elegantly executed quartos and folios which are occasionally prepared abroad. For the sake of the family, bereft of a gifted father and protector, in a land of strangers, we hope that no unnecessary sacrifice has been made of this unique library.

In connection with this subject, it is appropriate to remind Messrs. French & Adlard, publishers, that nothing like an adequate supply of Dr. Bushe's Treatise on the DISEASES OF THE RECTUM has been placed in the Boston market. One bookseller remarked that he could have disposed of twenty copies last week, if they had been furnished from New York. It generally happens that the physicians here at the north, who are distinguished for their avidity in collecting new publications, are the last to be served. As this must continue to be a standard book, a large edition, widely distributed to the trade, is deserving the immediate consideration of the New York publishers.

Geology of Ohio.—Preparations are making for an extensive geological survey of Ohio. The appointments are made by Governor Vance—and Prof. W. W. Mather, of New York, a graduate of West Point, is appointed to the head of the survey, and Dr. S. P. Hildreth, of Ohio, is first assistant.

The Regents of the New York University have appointed Dr. Alban G. Smith, of the Medical College of Ohio, professor of Surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the State of New York.

Erratum.—The concluding sentence in the case of monstrosity, in last week's Journal, should read as follows:—"No species of monstrosity so completely excludes the idea of viability."

To CORRESPONDENTS.—A notice of Dr. E. H. Barton's Introductory Lecture on Acclimation, Dr. Braman's case of peritonitis, Dr. H.'s and other papers, are excluded this week by a press of other matter.

DIED.—At Baltimore, Md. Dr. Thomas R. Johnson, of the U. S. Army, 36.

Whole number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending July 29, 57. Males, 14—Females, 13. Consumption, 5—infantile, 4—lung fever, 2—suicide, 1—convulsions, 2—inflammation of the bowels, 2—typhus fever, 1—drowned, 2—dropsy on the brain, 1—dropsy, 1—old age, 2—cholera infantum, 1—inflammation of the heart, 1—inflammation of the heart and colic, 1—stillborn, 1.

VERMONT ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

THE Autumnal term of the Vermont Academy of Medicine commences on Thursday, the 10th day of August, 1837, and continues thirteen weeks.

Theory and Practice of Medicine and Materia Medica, by	WILLIAM TULLY, M.D.
Surgery, Obstetrics, and Diseases of Women and Children, by	THEODORE WOODWARD, M.D.
Chemistry and Natural History, by	JOHN D'WOLF, JR., A.M.
Anatomy and Physiology, by	JAMES H. ARMSBY, M.D.

July 26—31

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

THE Annual Course of Lectures for 1837, will commence the last Thursday in August and continue thirteen weeks.

Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, by	H. H. CHILDS, M.D.
Pathological Anatomy, by	E. BARTLETT, M.D.
Materia Medica and Pharmacy, by	DAVID PALMER, M.D.
Botany, Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, by	C. DEWEY, M.D.
Surgery and Physiology, by	W. FARRER, M.D.
General and Special Anatomy, by	R. WATTS, JR., M.D.
Legal Medicine, by	HON. HENRY HUBBARD.

Fees for the Tickets of all the Professors, \$50. Those who have attended two full courses at an incorporated medical school, \$10. Graduation, \$16. Board not exceeding \$3 per week.

By an act of the Legislature of Massachusetts, passed April, 1837, the Berkshire Medical Institution is constituted an *Independent Medical College*, with authority to confer degrees, and the graduates are entitled to all the privileges and immunities which pertain to the medical graduates of Harvard University.

By a vote of the Massachusetts Medical Society, passed the 31st of May last, the graduates of the Berkshire Medical Institution, are ex officio entitled to admission as Fellows of said Society.

C. DEWEY,

Dean of the Faculty.

July 19—31

PROLAPUS UTERI CURED BY EXTERNAL APPLICATION.

DR. A. G. HULL'S UTERO-ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER is offered to those afflicted with *Prolapsus Uteri*, and other diseases depending upon relaxation of the abdominal muscles, as an instrument in every way calculated for relief and permanent restoration to health. When this instrument is carefully and properly fitted to the form of the patient, it invariably affords the most immediate immunity, from the distressing "dragging and bearing down" sensations which accompany nearly all visceral displacements of the abdomen, and its skilful application is always followed by an early confession of radical relief from the patient herself. The Supporter is of simple construction, and can be applied by the patient without further aid. Within the last two years 700 of the Utero-Abdominal Supporters have been applied with the most happy results.

The very great success which this instrument has met, warrants the assertion, that its examination by the Physician will induce him to discard the disgusting pessary hitherto in use. It is gratifying to state, that it has met the decided approbation of every member of the Medical Faculty who has applied it, as well as every patient who has worn it.

The Subscribers having been appointed agents for the sale of the above instruments, all orders addressed to them will be promptly attended to. Price, \$10.

LOWS & REED, Boston; DAVID KIMBALL, Portsmouth, N. H.; JOSHUA DURGIN, Portland, Me.; JOSEPH BALCH, JR. Providence, R. I.; ELISHA EDWARDS, Springfield, Mass.; N. S. WORDEN, Bridgeport, Conn. May 10—6m

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

THE Medical Lectures in Harvard University will begin on the first Wednesday in November, in Mason street, Boston, at 9 o'clock, A. M., and continue thirteen weeks. For the following four weeks, the Hospital and Dissecting room will be kept open, and some Lectures will be given, without additional expense, to such students as may remain.

The following Courses of Lectures will be delivered to the class of the ensuing season.	Fees.
Anatomy, and the Operations of Surgery, by JOHN C. WARREN, M.D.	\$15
Chemistry, by JOHN W. WEBSTER, M.D.	15
Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, by WALTER CHANNING, M.D.	10
Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine, by JACOB BIGELOW, M.D.	10
Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery, by GEO. HAYWARD, M.D.	10
Theory and Practice of Physic, by JOHN WARE, M.D.	15

By an additional act of the Legislature of Massachusetts, the opportunities for the study of Practical Anatomy are now placed upon the most liberal footing, and an ample supply of subjects for the wants of science will be legally provided at a small expense.

The Massachusetts General Hospital is open without fee to students attending the Lectures of the physicians and surgeons. Clinical Lectures are given several times in each week, and surgical operations are frequent.

To the Medical College is attached a Medical Library, a costly and extensive Chemical Apparatus, and Collections illustrative of Midwifery, Materia Medica, and Healthy and Morbid Anatomy.

WALTER CHANNING,

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

Boston, July 5, 1837.

tNov. 1.

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